

**OPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT, AND DECISION RECORD FORM**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR-080-01-14

BLM Office: Salem Resource Area
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

Proposed Action Title: Starker-Buttermilk Road Construction

Type of Project: Road Construction Associated with Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement S-754 (RWA S-754)

Location of Proposed Action: The project area is located approximately 20 air miles west of Corvallis, Oregon in Lincoln County on land administered by the Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, BLM. The project would occur within the Yaquina Watershed located about 2 miles south of the Yaquina River and 1.5 miles north of State Highway 20 (Yaquina Watershed, Hydrologic Unit No. 1710020401). Legal description of lands is Township 11 South, Range 8 West, southwest quarter of southwest quarter, section 5, and southeast quarter of southeast quarter, section 6, Willamette Meridian. Lands are located within the General Forest Management Area land use allocation (see attached map, appendix 1, Exhibit A).

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan: The proposed action is in conformance with the following documents: RMP (*Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*), dated May 1995 (pp. 57, 62-64, Appendix C-Section II Roads); *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M FSEIS, November 2000), and *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April 1994 (pp. B-9 to B-10, C-32 to C-33).

Purpose of and Need for Action: The applicant, Starker Forests, Inc. has requested an amendment to their existing RWA S-754: adding an existing segment of BLM controlled road on the applicant's land in Section 5 and a continuation of the existing road on to BLM in Section 6. The applicant requests building approximately 275 feet of minimum specification road on a ridge through a 10-year old BLM conifer plantation in Section 6 to access their land in Section 7 (see attached Appendix 1, Exhibit A, B, and 2 photos). The purpose of adding these lands and approving construction of the road is to facilitate forest management by Starker Forests, Inc. of their lands. The proposed action would allow construction of the new road and grant perpetual access rights to Starker Forests, Inc. upon the following Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands:

T. 11 S., R.8 W., SW1/4SW1/4 Section 5 and SE1/4SE1/4 Section 6, Lincoln County, OR, W.M.

Starker Forests, Inc. requires access over the above listed lands in order to conduct timber harvest and rock haul activities on their ownership.

Description of the Proposed Action: The existing RWA would be amended to include a strip of land, approximately 2.34 acres (2550 ft. long by 40 ft. wide including 275 feet of new construction) to accommodate access needs (see legal description above and attached Appendix 1, Exhibits A and B); no additional, new stipulations which would allow for denial of future requests regarding the added lands would be required. The amendment would provide perpetual reciprocal access rights to the roads involved according to the existing agreement. The applicant proposes to construct approximately 275 feet of new, minimum specification road along a previously disturbed ridge top on BLM(see Appendix 1, Exhibit B. The project would involve removing approximately 0.25 acres of 10-14 year-old conifers, leveling a 12-14 foot wide surface area. and placing approximately an eight (8) inch depth lift of crushed aggregate. All work would be conducted in accordance with the appropriate Best Management Practices identified in the RMP, Appendix C-2 to C-6, including those outlined in the specialists' reports: Maximize work during the dry season and avoid wet periods; Follow ODFW instream work guidelines; Use sediment filters and straw bales where appropriate for sediment delivery - do not create additional diversion potential; Dispose waste in stable sites only; Do not dispose waste on active floodplains; Leave vegetation in ditches where possible; Seed exposed soil areas with Oregon certified *Festuca rubra*.

The proposed action is expected to occur during Fiscal Year 2001 and 2002.

Consultation and Public Involvement: This action is a no effect to northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and listed fish. No impacts to Survey and Manage wildlife species are anticipated. Therefore, no section 7 consultation is required.

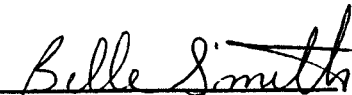
In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the proposed action was published on the Bureau of Land Management Salem District Internet site and in the Corvallis *Gazette-Times* and Lincoln City *News Guard* newspapers. The internet site is available for interested

public to access information concerning project development. This action was posted on the site for 30 days, beginning on September 12, 2001.

Affected Environment: The project area is located in General Forest Management Area and is not within the Riparian Reserve land use allocation as identified in the RMP (objectives, p.9 and p.20). Refer to Appendix 1 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental elements and resources.

Environmental Impacts: For a full discussion of the physical, biological, and social resources of the Salem District, refer to the Salem District FEIS. For a site-specific discussion of affects from the proposed action which supplements the discussion in the FEIS, refer to Appendix 1 of this EA .

EA Prepared By:


Belle Smith

Date: 09/5/01

Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Marys Peak Resource Area

Interdisciplinary Team:

NAME	TITLE
Belle Smith	Planning & Environmental Coordination
Russell Buswell	Civil Engineering Technician
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist
Ron Exeter	Botanist
Tom Vanderhoof	Biological Resource Technician

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and DECISION RECORD

Based upon my review of this EA (Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-01-14), I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. I have also determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the proposed action, as described in the EA.

Right to Appeal

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2804.1 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Board and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If no appeal is received by the close of business (4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time) on October 11, 2001, this decision will be implemented.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this decision or the BLM appeal process, contact Belle Smith, Marys Peak Field Office, 17 17 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306; telephone 503 - 315 - 5984.

Responsible Official Cindy Enstrom Date 9-5-01

Cindy Enstrom
Field Manager
Marys Peak Resource Area Salem District
Bureau of Land Management
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-01-14

In accordance with law, regulation, executive order and policy, the Starker-Buttermilk Road Construction interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the environment to determine if they would be affected by the proposed action described in Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-01-14. The following **three tables** summarize the results of that review.

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order.		
CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	AFFECTED / NOT AFFECTED	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Air Quality	Not Affected	The proposal does not involve any actions which affect air quality.
ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern)	Not Affected	No ACEC is in or adjacent to the right-of-way lands to be added to the reciprocal use agreement.
Cultural, Historic, and Paleontological	Not Affected	No pre-project survey required as outlined in the <i>Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Land Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon; Appendix D - "Coast Range Inventory Plan.</i>
Native American Religious Concerns	Not Affected	None known.
Threatened or Endangered (T&E) Plant Species or Habitat	Not Affected	There are no known T&E plant species or habitat that occur within the project area. Surveyed June 2001.
Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species or Habitat	Not Affected	There are no known Northern Spotted Owl or Marbled murrelet sites in the vicinity of this action, no suitable habitat present, and no future impacts anticipated..
Threatened or Endangered Fish Species or Habitat	Not Affected	There is no effect on the aquatic environments, essential fish habitat, or on listed fish.
Prime or Unique Farm Lands	Not Affected	No prime or unique farm lands associated with the right-of-way actions.

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	AFFECTED / NOT AFFECTED	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Flood Plains	Not Affected	No floodplains located in or affected by the actions.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	Not Affected	No hazardous or solid waste found or produced by this proposal.
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)	Affected	Low potential for sediment delivery during road construction due to ridge top location and no interception of streams. Same for hauling as road will be rocked.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 5/24/77)	Not Affected	No wetlands present in project location.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not Affected	No Wild and Scenic Rivers present.
Wilderness	Not Affected	No Wilderness in or adjacent to project area.
Invasive, Nonnative Species (includes Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 2/3/99)	Not Affected	Date of survey: (06/28/01) None found in project area.
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, 2/11/94)	Not Affected	The action would not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low income populations.

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction.

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	AFFECTED / NOT AFFECTED	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Land Uses (including mining claims, mineral leases, etc.)	Not Affected	The road is subject to a reciprocal right-of-way. The proposed action is consistent with this land use.
Minerals	Not Affected	There are no known mining claims or mineral leases located within the project area.
Recreation	Not Affected	
Soils	Affected	The proposed action would occur entirely within a previously disturbed area. Implementation of Best Management Practices will reduce impacts.
Visual Resources	Not affected	The project area is located within the Class IV Visual Resource Management category which allows for major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The proposed action is consistent with this classification.
Water Resources (including Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, beneficial uses, etc.)	Not Affected	The proposed action would not retard or prevent the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (see Table 3). The proposed action would have no effect on the following beneficial uses: Public Water Supply, Private Domestic Water Supply, Irrigation, Maintenance of Aesthetic Quality, and Recreation, Wildlife, and Fisheries. Additionally, the proposed action would not effect the following elements: DEQ (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) 303d listed streams, DEQ 319 assessment, water temperature and water quantity, and would have minimal effect in terms of sedimentation (see Table 1, Water Quality for more detail).
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage, and protection buffer species)	Not Affected	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention plant species/habitat located within the project area.
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat (including mammal Survey and Manage and mollusks)	Not Affected	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention wildlife species/habitat located within the project area, therefore no requirement to perform pre-project surveys.

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction.

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	AFFECTED / NOT AFFECTED	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Fish Species with Bureau Status and Essential Fish Habitat	Not Affected	No effects to this element of the environment (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 specialists reports).
Rural Interface Areas	Not Affected	None present.
Coastal Zone (affect on "any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone." The determination of effects should include "direct, indirect, cumulative, secondary, and reasonably foreseeable effects")	Not Affected	The proposed action is within the coastal zone as defined by the Oregon Coastal Management Program. This proposal is consistent with the objectives of the program, and the state planning goals which form the foundation for compliance with the requirements of the Coastal Zone Act. Management actions/direction found in the RMP were determined to be consistent with the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

Table 3: Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives Review Summary

ACS Objective	How Project Meets Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives
Maintain and restore distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape features to ensure protection of aquatic systems.	The proposed project has low potential for sediment delivery to any stream channel during roadway construction activities due to its ridge top location and distance to any streams.
Maintain and restore spatial connectivity within and between watersheds.	The proposed project would maintain the existing spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. No culverts are planned and therefore no aquatic connectivity would be affected.
Maintain and restore physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.	The proposed project is located on a ridge, 400 feet from the nearest stream. No streams will be physically impacted by the project.
Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic and wetland ecosystems.	Activities such as road construction may result in pulses of sediment delivery and turbidity if rain events occur during or shortly after work is done. However, the proposed project is located 400 feet from the nearest stream, and the hillside between the project and the stream consists of a dense Douglas-fir plantation. Therefore, it is unlikely that significant sediment would reach the stream.
Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which system evolved.	Activities such as road construction may result in pulses of sediment delivery and turbidity if rain events occur during or shortly after work is done. However, the proposed project is located 400 feet from the nearest stream, and the hillside between the project and the stream consists of a dense Douglas-fir plantation. Therefore it is unlikely that significant sediment would reach the stream.
Maintain and restore instream flows.	Road construction activities on a ridge top would have no effect on base flows. The proposed project would maintain existing patterns of sediment, nutrient and wood routing.
Maintain and restore the timing, variability and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.	The proposed project would have no effect on the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands because there are no wetlands or meadows in the project area.
Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian zones and wetlands to provide thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, and appropriate rates of bank erosion, channel migration and CWD accumulations.	The proposed project is located 400 feet from the nearest stream and outside the Riparian Reserve. There are no wetlands or riparian zones located within the project area, or that would be affected by the proposed action. Therefore existing species composition and structural diversity would be maintained.
Maintain and restore habitat to support well distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species	The proposed project is located 400 feet from the nearest stream and outside the Riparian Reserve, therefore no riparian dependent species or their habitat would be affected.

VI. LIST OF PREPARERS / INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBERS

NAME	TITLE	RESOURCE ASSIGNED	INITIALS	DATE
Belle Smith	Natural Resource Specialist	NEPA Review	BSmith	8-2-2001
Russ Buswell	Civil Engineering Technician	Engineering	RussBuswell	8/22/01
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	SH	7-16-2001
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries/Aquatic Resources	SL	9/5/01
Ron Exeter	Botanist	Botany, Noxious Weeds	RE	10/3/22, 2001

1/ Pursuant to BLM Handbook 1790-1, Rel. 1-1547, 10/25/88, page IV-1 1, it is appropriate to use this optional form when all the following conditions are met: 1/ Only a few elements of the human environment are affected by the proposed action; 2/ Only a few simple and straightforward mitigation measures, if any, are needed to avoid or reduce impacts; 3/ There are no program-specific documentation requirements associated with the action under consideration; 4/ The proposed action does not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources and, therefore, alternatives do not need to be considered; 5/ The environmental assessment is not likely to generate wide public interest and is not being distributed for public review and comment; and 6/ The proposed action is located in an area covered by an existing land use plan and conforms with that plan.

EXHIBIT A

Approximately 6.4
miles to Eddyville

1.5 miles at
Buttermilk Cr.

11-8-6.2

0+00

11-8-6.1

UNIT 2
410000 $2.8 + 70$

P, 2+50 -
property
line

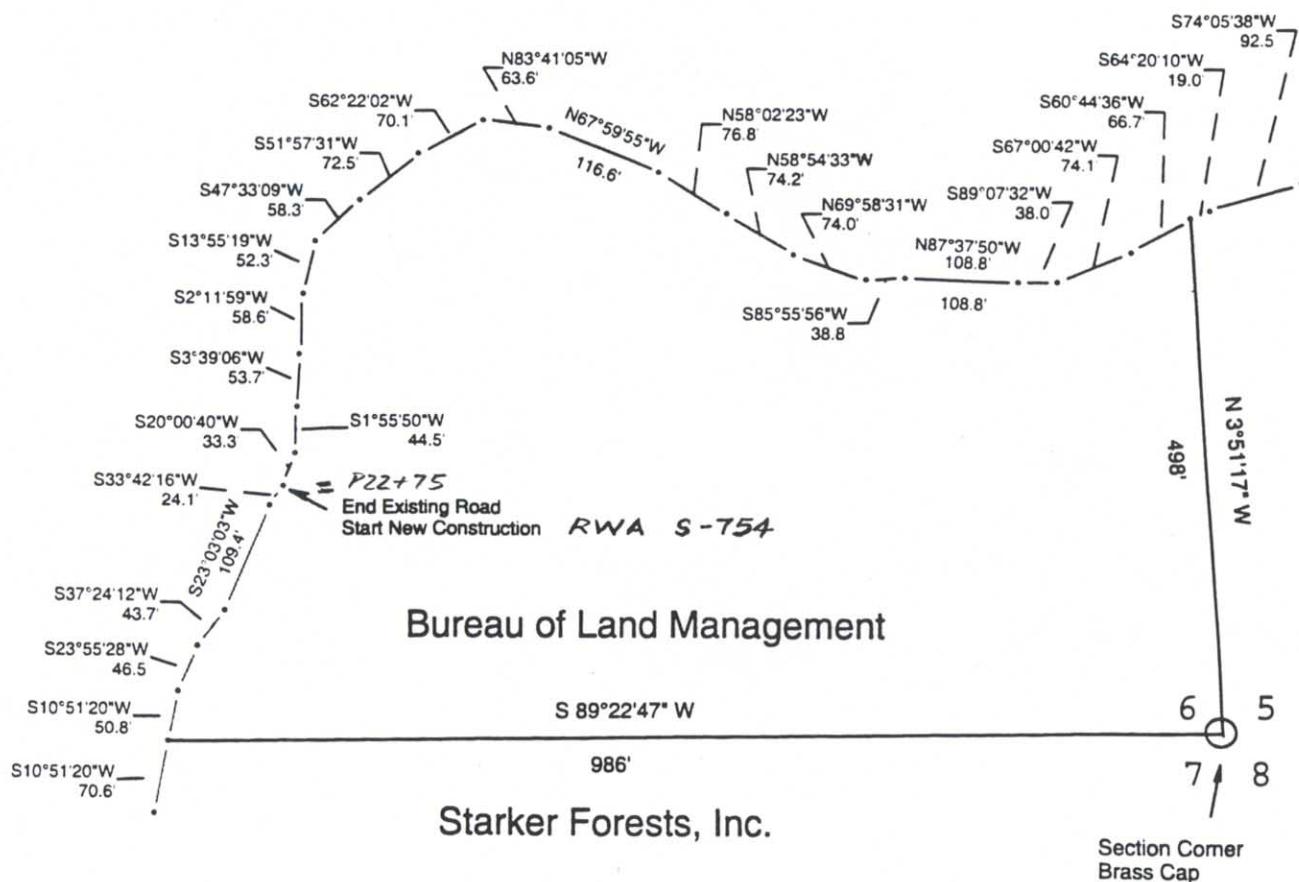
28, 1954

EXISTING ROAD TO BE DETAILED R.W.A.S-754

Starker Forests, Inc.\BLM Easement Document

T 11 S; R 8 W; Section 6

Lincoln County, Oregon



Distance from
Buttermilk road junction
to section
line 5,6 = 1120 feet

Property line survey
information per
C.S. #9353, based
on C.S. #8157

FILE NAME		
110807.TRV		
SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY
188 FV/in	3-27-2001	Jennifer Noonan
JOB	REVISION	SHEET
Eagleson R/W	1/1	1/1

This map drawn with TRAVERSE PC Software